

CHARTER OF LIFE

NO greater plan for the future of England and Wales has ever been presented to people and Parliament than the new Education Bill, the principle of which has been unanimously approved by the House of Commons. It bears the marks of wisdom, understanding, and tolerance. But above all it bears the marks of a deep love and care for children, young people, and adults.

Here indeed is a charter of life. At last the loud proclamation is sounded that education does not end at fourteen, or at sixteen, or at twenty: it is an undertaking for life.

Every Child's Birthright

This charter of life covers the whole of life. It will ultimately keep the child in the friendly atmosphere of well-built schools with well-trained teachers until he is sixteen. No more will parents anxiously wonder whether they can afford to keep their child at school until that age. This is to be his birthright. Here is the new wise gift to all children without stint and undue sacrifice.

FROM the moorland hamlets and the grim industrial towns is to come a new race of young Britons who from their nursery years to the bounds of manhood and womanhood are free to learn and live, to see beauty and to understand the wonders of the world. From the schools a new race of adventurers and poets, craftsmen and technicians, statesmen and scholars, will emerge. The old evil days of "no schooling" and "half-timers" have been transformed into a new golden age for the child. Broad playing-fields, swimming-baths, noble buildings are being planned for the young Briton of tomorrow.

No more will young bodies be condemned to work at loom and lathe before their time. No more will stunted boys and girls struggle to grow in our dark industrial regions. All the brilliance and wonder of books and pictures, scholarships and learning, are to be ready for the child as he grows. Let us hail this promise of things to come—the greatest which has yet come out of the war period.

The Higher Values of Learning

But the charter of life is for youth also. The child is to grow into young manhood and womanhood under the care of a country which is understanding and beneficent. A new factor of education is to come into our State system—colleges for young people. No longer will the lack of means prevent young people from enjoying some of the higher values of learning. Here in the style most suited to the expanding mind the glories of literature and the wonders of science and art will be revealed. The youth of the land will be able to learn how to live.

THAT is the supreme note of this charter of life. Learning and living go together. Some things are better understood at a more mature age than school age. The youth or the young adult sees the wisdom of learning better than the smaller child, for he has already touched life in reality. The new charter offers him a chance to keep in touch both with learning and living. He will see his wage packet not merely as a wage packet but as part of the wonder of living. He will see the daily routine lit up by the marvels of discovery and be able to test the miracles of the universe by the knowledge he has acquired. No more will this land be full of people who merely accept what life brings them; instead,

this land of ours will be full of intelligent men and women who will understand some of the reasons for what happens.

THIS charter announces that the greatest blot on our national life is ignorance. In the post-war world we shall certainly not be able to afford ignorant men and women. Those whose minds are closed and dead in adult life would be a heavy burden on our national existence. We want men and women who are alert and eager, responsive and adventurous. Unless Britain can breed such a race of people the sap and fibre of her life will pass away. We cannot live by looking back on our past greatness: greatness must lie ahead in the lives of those now in the cradles and the nursery schools, or those yet to be born.

A Call to Adventure

It is with this hope that this new charter of life is presented to us all. The spirit of the child is needed in all our national undertakings. The fresh enthusiasm of youth is required in all the wide fields of British life. We must retain the glad wonder of the boy or girl at all ages. He who ceases to be surprised at what life can offer has really ceased to live. To provide that expectancy in all our people is one of the tasks of this charter. It regards every one of us as never too old to learn.

This new charter offers too a challenge for a new race of men and women to arise. Many thousands of new teachers will be required to staff the new schools. Here is a call to adventure which must stir the hearts of youth as much as the adventure to climb Mount Everest or explore unknown deserts. Every classroom and every playground is a space for such adventuring. The opening mind and the eager spirit of the child are the material of exploration. There is a call for teachers who will not allow their vocation to become drab and lifeless, for teachers who will see beyond the classroom and the books into the lives of those before them. There lies the world of revolution and change, and this charter of life is also the charter of the best kind of revolution.

NEVER since Magna Carta has a charter of life with such possibilities in it come into the hands of the English people. It will speak round the world of the spirit of our people in these days of war. None but the courageous and stout-hearted would have dared to think out such plans in wartime, and having thought about them put them into action. This charter will cheer the hearts of our young men and women as they maintain the watches by land, sea, and air; it will speak for the future in a bold, clear manner, and will speak not only of hopes and plans but of actual certainty.

The Key to Understanding

The charter opens the highway of life to all children born in our land. No class, no privilege, no insecurity can henceforward stop the way of advancement for any child. The rich life of the world's treasures is now laid at the feet of the coming generations and the key to understanding them is there too. No longer will ignorance be a stumbling block, or the dull mind crab the fortunes of the nation. We are beginning to build a land fit for men and women to live in, and men and women fit to carry onward our fortunes to new heights.

CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER
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FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE



Snowdrops

GRACEFUL—fair to behold, Pure and white as the snow; Yet you did not flutter from heaven: But on the ground, From the moist soil beneath You did silently grow Through the cold and the gloom,	To show to the world Your beauty of form—the loveliness Which to you your Maker has given; Telling that life Has once more conquered death, From the void that beauty has risen. <i>Ellen Hainsworth</i>
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DUCKS SOLVE A PROBLEM

NOT often can the unromantic duck be saluted for its services to mankind. But this was the case according to an article in the Ceylon News about an experiment conducted by the Mysore State Veterinary Department.

Severe loss was being caused among livestock, and especially buffaloes, by an internal parasite called the liver fluke. This parasite was known to spend part of its existence in the snails inhabiting marshy areas nearby, and so the experimenters decided to strike at the parasite's life cycle by attacking its snail "refuge." Many and varied were the methods used to destroy the snails, but none of them were successful.

Then an acute observer noticed that the water duck was a consumer of these snails. The duck ate them partly because it con-

sidered the snail a delicacy and partly because the snail's shell contained abundant calcium for the formation of egg-shell. This suggested a possible solution of the problem to the Veterinary Department. An area in which the cattle were badly affected was chosen, and several hundred ducks were put on the marshy land. Men were employed to let them out in the morning and shut them up at night, and results were carefully watched. Before long the success of the experiment was obvious. Snails became more and more scarce, and the liver fluke's work practically stopped.

The ducks had conquered the parasite, and so helped to safeguard the health of buffaloes and other livestock. And they even paid for their own maintenance, for the experimenters sold the eggs which the ducks laid.

ON THE ROAD TO ROME

The Strange Faith That Rivalled Christianity

GENERAL ALEXANDER'S new attack behind the German lines in central Italy, threatening Rome, brings the ancient "Port of Rome" into our maps, the little town of Ostia.

This will greatly interest British and American scholars in the Fifth Army, of whom there are many, for Ostia was the home of a religion now forgotten, which at one time might well have rivalled Christianity and challenged its eventual supremacy in Europe.

The name of that religion was Mithraism. Kipling refers to it in one of his famous short stories, and he might well have written more about Mithraism, for this was the religion of the Roman soldier. So much so, that the legionaries who served in Britain not only brought Mithraism to this country, but left Mithraic memorials at York and elsewhere.

It was a body of pirates from Cilicia, on the coast of Asia Minor, captured by Pompey in 68 B.C. who first introduced the worship of Mithras into Rome, and doubtless their influence strongly affected the sailor-population of Ostia as well as the Roman Army.

Mithras was a Persian deity, the god of heavenly light, protector and supporter of man in this life, defending him against the spirits of evil. Later, depicted as a beautiful youth, he became the sun-god, and inspired many mystic ceremonies, including a form of baptism. Roman soldiers found an irresistible appeal in the cult of Mithras. They spread it in the East as well as in the West; but the Moslems destroyed all its literature and monuments

when they swept across what we now call the Middle East.

Before them, Christianity had fought and beaten the Mithraic cult in Roman Europe, though not without a struggle, for there was also a manliness about Mithraism, and its initiation ceremonies called for great physical courage and endurance. Like Mohammedanism, it was essentially a "man's religion," making a strong appeal to the soldier.

Rome became the world-centre of Christianity. But Ostia, the Port of Rome, 14 miles away from the capital, at the mouth of the Tiber, was a stronghold of Mithras long after Roman Christianity established itself, and so remained until the time of St Jerome, despite its official suppression some years previously by the prefect Gracchus in A.D. 378. But in time Mithraism disappeared.

Ostia was no more than a ruin in A.D. 830, when Pope Gregory IV, otherwise little known, founded a village which has since become the modern Ostia, half a mile above the ancient city. But in 1885 the famous Italian archaeologist, Lanciani, digging in ancient Ostia, discovered the most perfect Temple of Mithras yet known, a chapel lined with mosaics representing the signs of the Zodiac, the courses of the planets, and lost religious symbols of many kinds, proving how important a centre the Roman seaport had been for the forgotten faith.

Two Dominions Make History

THE recent agreement between the Australian and New Zealand governments at Canberra has been welcomed both by the people of these Dominions themselves and by all lovers of peace.

Not only does it link Australia and New Zealand in their immediate task of defeating the Japanese, and their future policy of defence, but it also ensures that they will join in applying to all the countries of the south and south-west Pacific the principles of freedom from fear, from want, and from repression.

In planning their mutual security for the future the two Prime Ministers have not lost sight of the fact that it must be

linked up with plans for world-security. As Mr Peter Fraser said, Peace is indivisible, and any international organisation which stops short of world-wide scope is foredoomed to failure.

Among their proposals for the future is a commission on native welfare on which would sit representatives of Great Britain, France, and America, and other colonising states in the south Pacific.

This, together with agreement for mutual action on immigration, air routes, and so on, shows that the two Dominions, while maintaining their full sovereignty in internal affairs have taken a wide and courageous view of their world-wide responsibilities.

CHRISTIAN UNITY IN INDIA

THERE were long discussions in the Church of England Houses of Convocation recently about the scheme for the union of Churches in South India.

The Archbishop of Calcutta had asked what would be the attitude of the Church of England towards the proposed Church of South India, which would be formed from four of the dioceses in his Province and the churches of Methodist, Congregational, and Presbyterian origins?

The Christian leaders of South India have for 20 years been dis-

cussing this scheme and have agreed that it will strengthen Christian life by promoting a fuller Christian unity.

Archbishop Temple proposes to send a letter encouraging these "bridge-builders," and all the bishops voted for a resolution moved by the Bishop of Winchester. This expressed heartfelt agreement with the proposed letter, thanking God that He had put it into the hearts of so many of His people in India to take such action as, in their judgment, would further the cause of reunion.

The Little Theatre Shop

THERE are no more toy theatres to be bought, we hear, in the quaint little shop in Hoxton Street which was first opened by Mr John Redington over 100 years ago, and was then carried on by his son-in-law, Benjamin Pollock, for 60 years and more.

Those "penny plain, twopence coloured" prints which Robert Louis Stevenson immortalised in a delightful essay will soon have to be sought elsewhere; for Miss Louisa Pollock, who has lovingly tended this romantic old business ever since her father died, is shutting up shop and going into the country.

Distinguished Visitors

Thus passes a shop so charming and unusual that it attracted visitors from all parts of the world, among them many distinguished men of letters and playwrights. They loved to make their way along the narrow and dingy street, and talk with the owner of the shop, such a pleasant, intelligent, simple man, and so fond of the children of the neighbourhood who flattened their noses in rapt fascination against his fairy window.

Mr Pollock was a true artist. Had he been merely a toy-theatre maker the famous writers and artists who visited him so often would hardly have felt the same magic spell as the Hoxton kiddies. But he had a most delicate and sensitive feeling for the theatre of the past, for London of the gaslight and pre-gaslight days, with all its shortcomings but with all its fun. To him Macready and Kean were not mere names in past history, but real people, whose fine posturings on the stages of Drury Lane and Covent Garden, though he never witnessed them himself, were as memorable from the prints he made of them as though he had sat upstairs among the "gods" of the late 1700's and cheered and whistled with the best.

A Fragrant Memory

Now at last the little shop he loved so well is itself passing from the stage to join the ranks of things sweet-remembered. Fortunately, however, those "penny plain, twopence coloured" prints will still be obtainable elsewhere, for the Pollock business is to have a successor in Mr Alan Keen, the London expert on rare books and prints. He has told the C.N. his plans. As soon as possible he will print off a limited edition from fine copperplates for museums and libraries here and in the U.S.A. Then he will print from the stones lithograph reproductions not quite so fine, though collectors will be glad to have them, especially as Mr Keen has discovered two of the artists who used to colour them for Benjamin Pollock, and hopes to persuade them to assist him.

After the war children also will be considered, for Mr Keen intends to transfer the entire stock and gear of the Hoxton shop to premises in the West End, where he will resume the making of the toy theatres, with all their figures and fittings, and will reissue the "penny plain and twopence coloured" as of old. That shop will be a rare addition to the attractions of London, and will keep a fragrant memory alive among us.

LITTLE NEWS REELS

BRITAIN is to give £30,000,000 to U.N.R.R.A. as her first contribution toward relieving distress in countries when they are freed from the Axis yoke.

A memorial tablet has been unveiled at the London Hospital to its pioneer X-ray martyrs—Ernest Harnack, Ernest Wilson, Reginald Blackhall, and Harold Suggars.

This country and the U.S.A. have refused to recognise the revolutionary Government of Bolivia.

HALF a million pounds of evaporated milk and nearly two million vitamin tablets have been sent from the U.S. for famine sufferers in India.

The post office authorities have removed 5000 buffers from parcel trolleys and sent them for salvage.

A £5,000,000 dam is to be built to prevent the flooding of the River Tigris at Baghdad.

At the invitation of the British Council Turkey has sent three of her leading doctors to this country to study wartime medicine and surgery.

India is shortly to be represented in Australia by a High Commissioner.

OVER 650,000 Italian patriots are fighting the Germans in Northern Italy.

Leather shortage is so serious in the U.S.A. that plans for using pigskin for shoe soles are well on the way.

The wearing of Spanish Civil War decorations has been banned by Marshal Badoglio.

One group of R.A.F. Transport Command flew 16,400 casualties from Mediterranean battlefields during 1943.

Britain's transport services move about 1,250,000 tons of freight a day.

Youth News Reel

THE 2nd Odiham (Fleet) Troop of Boy Scouts recently sent a consignment of Scouting books to Malta, where they are badly needed.

During a recent scrap metal campaign American Boy Scouts collected 292,008,406 pounds of metals.

A pool on which model ships will be displayed is to be a feature of a National Sea Scout Exhibition to be held in London from April 10 to 19.

The Red Cross received £30 as the result of a successful pantomime given by the Scouts of the 152nd North London (1st Palmers Green) Troop in conjunction with the local Girl Guides and Sea Rangers.

£5 a Week For Miners

AN immediate award of £5 a week to the underground men and £4 10s a week for adult surface workers has been made by the National Reference Tribunal for the coal industry. Where existing agreements give higher terms these will remain. Though there is no rise in piece rates, and the miners have not got their full claim, week-end work will be paid for at double rates, with one and one-third rates for overtime.

The Tribunal also declares the award to be a temporary expedient, holding that the entire wage scheme should be recon-

Six dogs of the U.S. Marine Corps have been mentioned in dispatches for bravery in the Pacific.

SALT used instead of potash as a fertiliser for sugar beet crops in Lincolnshire has greatly increased production.

A training college for evangelists will be a memorial to Prebendary Carille's 60 years of service to the Church Army.

A New Zealand sergeant in the Middle East welcoming reinforcements found his father among them.

Much of the equipment used in building the 1630-mile Alaska Highway is coming to Britain, and some of the great drag-line power shovels are likely to be used in surface coal-mining.

Next-of-kin of prisoners of war and missing soldiers in the Far East will be sent a special monthly journal from the Red Cross and St John War Organisation.

The new Roman Catholic Archbishop of Westminster, Dr. Griffin, on his enthronement made a special appeal for respect for the sanctity of the home, and appealed to the Government to pay family allowances.

OWING to a shortage of plumbers the Metropolitan Water Board have given householders more than 315,000 tap-washers to fit themselves; and as a result it is estimated that 126 million gallons of water have been saved in 20 months.

Women are learning at Kew to make baskets from ivy, dogwood, and wistaria instead of willow, which is reserved for the Forces.

The Board of Trade has imported 18,000 radio sets from America, which will be sold by the trade at controlled prices.

Entering for the first time the International Friendship Competition arranged by the Girls Life Brigade the 18th Auckland (New Zealand) Company tied for first place with the 1st Highams Park (Essex) Company. Each gained 95 per cent. marks for an essay on "The country I would most like to visit after the war, and why."

Four sergeants of the Boys Brigade recently visited Glasgow City Chambers to hand to the Lord Provost a cheque for £250 for the Red Cross Prisoners of War Fund, raised by the Glasgow Battalion by a paper salvage collection.

New companies of the Boys Brigade have been formed recently in Canada, Jamaica, Nigeria, New Zealand, and the Cook Islands.

considered for a general overhaul. The younger employees in the industry are also to receive higher wages, and thus the initial dissatisfaction of the conscribed boys has, it is hoped, been cleared up by the tribunal. Travelling expenses over 6d a day will also be paid to youths unavoidably billeted some distance from their training centre.

These rises, and many other factors, of course, explain the increase in the price of coal and coke, which affects not only domestic consumers but all industry, as it necessarily raises the prices of goods.

The Children's Newspaper, February 5, 1944

Brer Fox or Brer Rabbit?

FARMERS in Kent are up in arms against the fox. Five hundred men were expected to be out recently with their guns, so that foxes might die and domestic poultry escape. Similar militant activity would be welcome to farmers and landowners in the Highlands, where foxes are not hunted as they are in England, but are free to prey, not only on such small fare as poultry, but on sheep. On one estate over thirty sheep were destroyed by foxes in a year.

But how do foxes eat such woolly animals as Highland sheep? it may be asked. They do not; for, having killed it by attacking the sheep's vulnerable throat, they eat only the nose

and ears, and leave all the rest.

There seems a case here for Government action, but an owner of a Scottish estate tells us that the forestry authorities are a little "shy"; they do not mind foxes. In fact, foxes are good friends of the forester, for they prey on rabbits, which cause the country seventy million pounds' worth of damage yearly, and include destruction of newly-planted young trees in their winter diet.

Who shall determine which is the greater loss—a depleted flock or ravaged plantations which should, if unmolested, help to stay the timber famine with which the world of the future is threatened?

AMERICAN KNIGHTS

The King has conferred great and well-deserved honours upon two of General Eisenhower's most brilliant colleagues. The Chief of Staff to the invasion leader is Major-General W. B. Smith, and he becomes a Knight Commander of the Bath. General Mark Clark, commander of the Fifth Army in Italy, becomes a Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire.

These are not the first British knighthoods conferred on distinguished Americans. But though the two generals may put KCB and KBE after their names, they will not become Sir W. B. Smith or Sir Mark Clark. The U.S.A. does not recognise titles of this kind as applying to its own citizens; nor for that matter does Canada, except to a very limited degree.

American women, like other women, are fond of foreign titles, and as it is the law in the States that an American woman does not lose her nationality on marriage to a foreigner, there are a number of American princesses, duchesses, countesses, and baronesses of various courts and kinds. Some of them take themselves and their titles very seriously, but the American man-in-the-street professes not to be impressed.

HAWKSHEAD'S PROUD RECORD

The smallest town in the Lake-district, Hawkshead, where Wordsworth was educated in the local Grammar School, claims that for its size it has produced more garments for the Forces than any other place in the north.

Up to last month local people had produced 5000 articles of clothing. A mother and daughter in one year made over 700 useful articles.

THE DOGS OF WAR

A further appeal is made for the loan of dogs to the Government for war services. The present request is for Alsatians, Airedales, boxers, collies, bull terriers, Labradors, retrievers, and Kerry Blues. They should not be younger than ten months and not older than five years. Those willing to lend dogs should write to the War Office (V and R), Whitehall, S.W., marking letters or postcards War Dogs.

The dogs are carefully trained and used. In one training establishment seen in the last war, the dogs were inured to the sound of shots by being fed on a ground where hand grenades were thrown into pits at feeding-time. The animals came to associate firing with feeding, and were thus reconciled to it.

WOMEN GUARDS

A class for the training of railway guards has been opened at York and encouragement given by the LNER to their women employees to offer themselves for this responsible work. Already 18 volunteers, mainly from the York and Hull goods' staff, are going through the course of training.

THE NEW DRUG

New drugs continue to multiply, and one of them, Mepacrine, is being used with success as a substitute for quinine in the treatment of malaria. It is a yellow substance, made up as a small tablet.

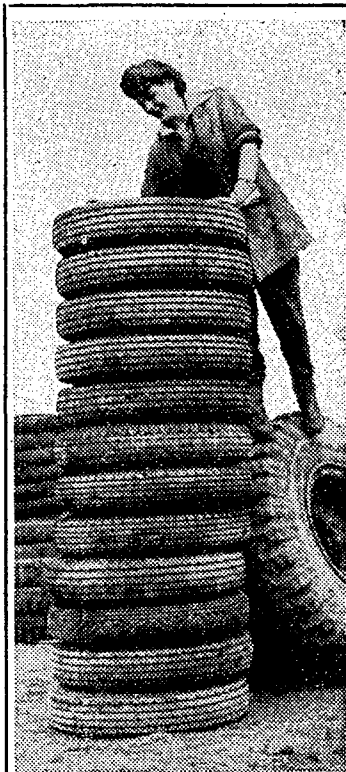
The loss of Java gave to the Japanese the control of 95 per cent of the world's supply of the bark which is the source of quinine. Mepacrine was discovered and tried before the war began. Weight for weight, compared with quinine, Mepacrine is five times as effective. It has proved of value not only in the treatment of malaria, but in its prevention.

British manufacturing chemists have agreed to pool their resources to produce the drug. Some 1500 million tablets have gone to the Services, and the troops have now the adequate supplies they require.

Coal Threat to a Mighty Mansion

THE biggest private house in England, Wentworth Woodhouse, near Sheffield, is threatened by mining operations. It is part of the Government's biggest open-cast scheme.

The front of the mansion will soon be approached by the workings; already much of the great parkland has been affected. Coal will be scooped out only 150 yards from the famous pillared portico where kings and queens have been welcomed in the past. Wentworth Woodhouse, York-



Tower of Tyres

A girl of the ATS piling up tyres at an Army re-conditioning depot

POWDERED APPLES

Experiments are being made with the drying of all home-grown fruits at the Ditton Laboratory of the Department of Scientific Research. Thus, to make powdered apples the fruit has to be dried to a much higher degree than for apple rings. The nutritive value is well maintained, and powdered apple is excellent when used for pastry or a spread for sandwiches.

It is possible that powdered apple, as well as powdered egg and milk, may help to feed Europe after the war.

The Sea is in Our Blood

THE will of a simple sailor has just been proved at nearly £61,000. He was Able-Seaman J. R. S. Arkwright, who died on war service last May.

Mr Arkwright, son of a squire in Wales, was a seaman "for the duration," as are thousands of those who man our ships today. We have not been told how or where he died, but we know he must have been of the same magnificent breed as the "temporary" sailors who in the early days of the war fought to the end in the Jervis Bay, and who, more recently, brought the Scharnhorst to her doom.

Nelson had such crews as this, though many of them were brought in by the press-gang. Drake found them in thousands when the Spanish Armada came sailing up our coasts so insolently and with such unwise confidence. Whenever the call of danger has come, men of all our British race, of all ranks, high and low, rich and poor, have answered eagerly and proudly. They have not needed to be "professional" sailors. They are Britons, and the sea and its spirit of freedom are in their blood. To such men death is nothing—but liberty is all.

LUCKY NUMBER

A sailor's good deed has shown that thirteen is by no means an unlucky number.

An appeal from Doncaster Infirmary on behalf of a child whose life could only be saved by a banana diet was heard by the sailor, who had just arrived at Liverpool. He went immediately to police headquarters and left 13 splendid bananas, which were sent by express despatch and proved effective in arresting the child's complaint.

GLAD-TIDINGS BOOKS

A Dutch missionary who has worked for over twenty-four years in China, and is now in England after her release from a Japanese internment camp, has given a first-hand account of the keen Chinese demand for Scriptures.

On visiting a village she used to hang a text on a wall, and the children would fetch a congregation—the women standing near and the men in the background affecting not to listen. At the end she would open her bag—which was about all the Japanese left her when she was interned in 1941—and produce Gospels, which she sold for 20 cents (2d), representing less than the cost of the paper. It is pleasing to learn that the Chinese villagers called them Glad-Tidings books.

LOST SQUADRON

Airmen of Southern Rhodesia were among the first to take the air when war threatened in 1939, and a month before war was declared the Rhodesian authorities telegraphed to the Motherland an offer to train and maintain personnel for three operational squadrons. Training schools began on regular R.A.F. lines, and operational South Rhodesian squadrons were soon working as an integral part of the R.A.F. By now the R.A.F. have come to depend on such schools for a steady flow of trained pilots and observers.

One Rhodesian air squadron has a story of its own. It has every right to its motto of *Primum agmen in caelo* (First in the air). As early as August 1939 it left Rhodesia for Kenya, as a more strategic position just in case Britain went to war with the Axis. Since then it has been in most of the campaigns of this war, beginning with the Italian East African campaign. It has wandered so far from home that it has been nicknamed the Lost Squadron.

SALESMAN

The power of words was graphically illustrated the other day by an American soldier fighting in Italy with the Fifth Army. When captured by 17 German soldiers of the 44th Division, he talked with them so persuasively that they not only let him go, but returned with him to the Allied lines, and surrendered. Perhaps this American hero was a salesman before the war. At any rate, he certainly has the gift of the good advocate.

THE MEAT SHORTAGE

Normally we are a nation of meat-eaters, but circumstances have compelled us to revise our diet since the war began.

Why should there be such a shortage of meat? There are many reasons:

For one thing our agricultural policy has concentrated upon crops and dairy herds, and this has caused a reduction in the numbers of beef cattle and other livestock;

In America the rise in wages and the reduction of unemployment have naturally led to an increased consumption of meat;

While the shipping position has improved so far as losses are concerned, the Allied Governments are using more ships for war purposes; and

Argentina, that great meat exporter, is undergoing a severe political crisis.

But there are few grumblers, for it is a fact that more people are now well fed than before the war; and the value of our more Spartan diet is reflected in the high standard of the nation's health.



Toy Time

Children of St Pancras war workers playing with toys, provided by U.S. soldiers, at the Mary Ward Settlement.

The EDITOR'S TABLE

LENINGRAD

THE great battle which has been raging in the neighbourhood of Leningrad has brought relief to a heroic city which has endured suffering and privation for two and a half years.

For sixteen months the only communication the beleaguered city had with the rest of Russia was by plane and, in winter, across the frozen waters of Lake Ladoga. Then the Nazis were driven back and the siege was partly raised. But even then the Nazis kept the city under long-range shellfire. Now General Govorov's troops have hurled the Nazis back still farther, freeing important sections of railways to Murmansk and Moscow, and capturing the heights which overlook the city and many of the siege guns which have wrought such havoc.

In her tremendous fight against the Nazi invaders the New Russia has revealed to the world her greatness, and her old capital will for ever stand out among the honoured names of history.

In Far-Off Madagascar

IT is nearly two years since we took Madagascar to save it from becoming a Japanese submarine base threatening our life-line to India and the East. Now comes news that the graves of British and Empire fighting-men who fell at the capture of Diego Suarez, the chief naval base of the great island, are being brought together in centralised cemeteries under the constant care of the Imperial War Graves Commission.

When Madagascar is returned to a free France after the war, we think those British cemeteries will still be reverently cared for—like that corner of a foreign field that is for ever England.

JUST AN IDEA

Whenever you feel that a task is impossible, just find out who did it last, and how.

Life is Very Sweet, Brother!

A TRAVELLER to a certain city was not altogether surprised when he was told on the way by "one who knew" that the citizens were "a miserable lot"—mean, stingy, selfish, quarrelsome, dishonest. Nor was he surprised when he met another person who said that the citizens were "such nice people"—so kind, so gentle, so helpful, always ready and willing to do a good turn!

The traveller, being a wise man, knew that both opinions were genuine. For the seeker after evil always finds it, and the seeker after all that is best in life always finds it too!

We all know that war is ugly, that the roar of gun and the

explosion of bomb are the horrid noises of a crazy world, that there are criminals of the deepest dye in Europe, that there are mean and silly folk, cowards and tyrants, thankless and complaining people, bad motives and unkind deeds.

But Life is still beautiful. "Life is very sweet, brother!" There is still plenty of goodness to be found. There are still lovely things to see and hear, still much about which to rejoice and be thankful. There are still gallant souls, honest folk, and kind hearts, saints and heroes, good intentions, noble acts, and a mother's love.

These we must seek, and find, and make our own.

THE SEASIDE AND ITS FUTURE

THOUGH we long for the use of our forbidden seaside beaches, now dedicated to sterner service, we wait patiently for the day when peace will open them to us once more. But the seaside resorts themselves cannot afford to wait without planning.

Their normal economy has been so shattered by this war that it has set them considering whether it was ever as sound as it might have been. The Season was their rock of reliance, and the number of seaside places where an all-the-year-round Season was assured could be counted on the fingers of one's hands. For the rest, however, it was three or four months of prosperity, always dependent on the weather.

Well, little Broadstairs at least is already tackling its economic problem in a new way. The council of this charming Thanet

holiday-corner has decided that it shall be a prosperous place to live in as well as an attractive place to visit. Broadstairs is to seek the establishment of suitable light industries in the district, and why not? The Kentish coalmines are not faraway.

Mr Gilbert McAllister, Chairman of the London Planning Group, when speaking the other day on the use of coal by-products to bring life to the distressed areas, said that hope lay in the development of light industries, but "industries which grew from the natural wealth of these areas."

Broadstairs, of course, has never been a distressed area in this special sense, but it has its own problems, real and urgent; and it fully realises that they cannot be settled by mere dependence on a short and capricious Seaside Season.

When the Day's Work Is Done

THE need for more and yet more clubs where young people, and particularly young war workers, can meet and enjoy themselves has long been urged in many quarters. In all too many places the public house is the only alternative to the street corner.

Therefore it is more than welcome news that the Ministry of

Food has asked many local authorities in industrial districts to open their British Restaurants as recreation centres in the evening.

Not many of us, perhaps, think of the Ministry of Food as a kind of fairy godmother; but here, indeed, is a happy idea. Where the people eat let them also be merry!



The Arab and His Steed

A Palestine Arab of the Trans-Jordan Frontier Force Cavalry Regiment, wearing the Circassian astrakhan kalpak, traditional headdress of the TJFF. The cavalry unit, one of the last horse regiments of the British Army, has men of many races—Arabs, Circassians, Druses, Armenians, Jews, and British officers.

WANTED, A NEW DRINK

The nationwide increase of drinking among young people is causing concern in many quarters. One writer in *The Countryman* sees it from the point of view of the country village and he wants a new soft drink provided. He says:

A GREAT deal is being written, said, and pondered about wartime drinking and drunkenness. But what has the average village public house to offer our American soldier and airman visitors, accustomed in their own country to a wide range of fruit and other non-alcoholic drinks "off the ice," but beer, cider, whisky—or minerals? Again and again we hear of young men and women in our own Services developing a taste for alcohol, with a gradual weakening of determination to avoid excess, simply because they can find no satisfying alternative drink for themselves and their friends. The out-of-dateness, in this respect, of canteens for sailors, soldiers, and airmen, Wrens,

ATS girls, and Waafs is the subject of continual complaint.

This is what a young British soldier writes from the desert:

"Beer can be, and is, got out here for our mess, but tonight when I asked our canteen corporal about soft drinks, he barked down my throat that they were for officers only. Essence can be made easily out here from lemons and oranges which are grown by the million. The Yankees get their soft drink every day and I don't see why we can't too. We want a fitter and better Britain after the war, and beer is ruining some lads out here who drink it instead of being encouraged to lay off and have soft drinks."

That is the plain truth. We have not got in this country, and our young men and women overseas have not got, a pleasant satisfying fruit drink as an alternative to the alcoholic beverages which are being consumed, with results which we all deplore but are doing nothing to abate.

Under the Editor's Table

THE man in the street should help to govern in his own area. Then he would not be in the street.

EVERYONE is looking forward to the time when the blackout is over. We shall make light of everything.

JANUARY is the worst month for fish. They are all at sea.

THE airman who has become a coal miner has had his ups and downs.

Peter Puck Wants to Know



If people who can't get oranges get the pip

To think of past birthdays makes one sad, says a grown-up writer. Always wants a birthday present.

WHAT sort of people should be on the Brains Trust? somebody asks. Trustworthy ones.

TOMATOES must not be transported more than forty miles. We thought we had to make food go a long way.

Ask Your Chemist

THE Ministry of Health is to enlist the help of pharmacists in its campaign for health education, and will issue through their professional Journal a quarterly bulletin in which experts will explain the points of official policy.

The first of these bulletins will contain articles on the control of infectious diseases and notes on air conditioning, vitamins, and the care of children's teeth.

This seems to be an excellent idea, for there are 15,000 chemists, and through them, with their personal contact with numerous customers, much valuable information can be passed on to millions of the public.

Successful Failure

A GREAT number of students from Oslo University failed to pass their latest examination, and sad to say, they tried to fail, and succeeded in failing. So now they have been sent to Germany.

All honour to them! For they had been dragged from their lecture-rooms and sent to Norwegian concentration camps as a reprisal for the unwillingness of their fathers and brothers and comrades to bow to the Nazi yoke. They were to be "re-educated," made into good Hirdmen, which is the name of that small group of quisling Storm Troops. They were given lessons in "history and psychology," and then subjected to a "conscience examination." Among the questions were: Which side ought, in your

opinion, to win the war? What do you think of the philosophy of the Leader? If you were freed now, would you try to escape and fight against Germany?

Three years ago we were singing a song entitled "Oh, what a surprise for the Duce!" This time the surprise was for Hitler. For the answers were reported by the examiners as "in the main, most unsatisfactory."

So poorly "educated" were many of these Oslo students, that they said they wanted the Allies to win the war, that they did not think very highly of the Fuehrer's philosophy, and that if they were freed, and the right chance came they would soon be on their way to Britain to fight for the Norwegians they love.

Missionary Pioneers in East Africa

One hundred years ago, in the early days of 1844, a small Arab trading vessel entered the harbour of Zanzibar with Dr J. L. Krapf and his wife on board. They were the pioneers of the Church Missionary Society in Kenya, and this is the tribute paid to them in the C.M.S. Outlook.

TRIALS and loneliness were the setting of this great undertaking. In July 1844 Mrs Krapf and her baby daughter died, and were laid to rest on the mainland of Africa. For two years Dr Krapf was alone among the Wanika, a tribe low in the scale of civilisation but prepared to be friendly to the stranger. Then another German missionary, Johann Rebmann, arrived, and there began a partnership rare in the annals of missionary history.

The two pioneers decided to leave the island of Mombasa and settle at Rabai, and from there to penetrate farther inland in preparation for the great advance they were convinced would come. These journeys led to geographical discoveries which seem never to have had full recognition, but actually preceded and gave the impulse to the work of Burton, Speke, and other explorers, even to some of Livingstone's journeys. Rebmann's report that he had seen Kilimanjaro in 1848 and Krapf's account of it and of Mt Kenya, which he discovered in the next year, were treated with incredulity and scorn in many quarters, though these men came from Switzerland and knew snow mountains when they saw them!

No privations or disappointments daunted them. At one time Krapf and his caravan were attacked by robbers; at another he was alone, lost, for several days, his food "gunpowder mixed with the young shoots of a tree," or ants. In it all he was learning to know the people—and to love them. When the debasing customs of the Wanika had moved him to indignation, he wrote: "I ought to preach more of the love of the Redeemer. I must bring them closer to the Cross of Christ, show more compassion."

Krapf's eye was on the future. He saw a chain of mission stations stretching across Africa from east to west, to be made by

succeeding generations. "This idea I bequeathed to every missionary coming to East Africa." The C.M.S. caught the vision and began to send out recruits to—"a work honourable, but perilous," but the climate took heavy toll of these reinforcements.

One great problem faced the early missionaries—the slave traffic carried on by Arabs. Years before Krapf arrived the British Government had taken steps to check it if it could not be abolished immediately. The C.M.S. exerted influence in official circles, and encouraged some of the early missionaries to do what was possible for the rescue and care of slaves.

One hundred years have passed since the first missionary landed in East Africa, and what is now known as the C.M.S. Kenya Mission began. A newly-formed Kenya Christian Council is a centre of unity whose purpose is to promote the evangelisation of all races, the spread of Christian education, and the building up of a Christian community. In addition to the three and a half million Africans in Kenya Colony, there are some 60,000 Indians and 20,000 Europeans. This is the field offered to Christians for their witness in this generation.

Missionaries have been, and, to a great extent still are, leaders of the Christian section of African opinion; and their responsibility is very great. They have a unique opportunity of encouraging and training African leadership in all spheres of life.

African and British have fought side by side during the war. Now comes the call to work together to extend the reign of the Prince of Peace in Africa. In this centenary year, Kenya asks for recruits who will share the grand aim, the vision and devotion of Johann Ludwig Krapf and Johann Rebmann.

A CHILD SHALL LEAD THEM

SUSPICIOUS and morose at first, Italians are now finding that the British soldier is a friendly, genial soul, well worthy of friendship.

So also did the French peasants with whom our men were billeted during the 1914-18 war. They, too, were received at first with distrust and dislike, but they soon gained the hearts of their hosts and hostesses, with the little French children unwittingly acting as intermediaries. They loved to laugh at and correct the blunders of the big foreign fighting men who were so helplessly comical in their attempts at speaking the native tongue; and if we can laugh at, and with, a man, he is not, as a rule, to be feared or hated.

We are reminded of an Englishman who was quartered on French people during the last war. These people appeared to be surly, and kept him at a distance until the daughter of the house, a child of four, was seized with alarm on hearing

him inquire of her mother the way to a certain shop in the village. Addressing him in French she said, "Eh, mon Dieu, you will be lost," and offered to accompany him as a guide.

As they entered the lane from the garden the little girl said, "It is necessary that I come with you, soldier, to show you the way, then you will not be lost." They had not gone many yards when she went on: "But it is necessary for you to take care of the carts and motors. They will surely kill you. You must indeed hold my hand, soldier, to be quite safe." And she led him there and back, proudly persuaded that she had been his saviour.

The parents could not resist the charm of such an understanding, and soon they were giving their guest milk, eggs, and apples, and, supreme compliment, admitting him to the secret of the dubbing which they made for their boots, so that he might copy it and go dry-footed for the future.

CARRY ON

SAINT JOAN

ALONE she faced them, one unlettered girl, Matched with their pride, their learning, and their skill; Lawyer and churchman, noble, knight, and churl Together leagued in one malignant will.

But what can malice against simple sooth? She all alone, by gibe and scoff assailed, Armed but with mother wit and native truth, Over their learning and their arts prevailed. What though, her voices mute, no helper nigh, One bitter hour she stooped to mortal shame?

The moment passed; she put her weakness by And went unfaltering to the final flame.

So like a beacon through the centuries dark, For ever shines thy memory, Joan of Arc! *H. Idris Bell*

Two Ornaments of Virtue

THE two great ornaments of virtue, which show her in the most advantageous views, and make her altogether lovely, are cheerfulness and good nature. These generally go together, as a man cannot be agreeable to others who is not easy within himself. They are both very requisite in a virtuous mind, to keep out melancholy from the many serious thoughts it is engaged in, and to hinder its natural hatred of vices from souring into severity and censoriousness. *Joseph Addison*

A WINTER MORNING

THIS morning; and the sun, with ruddy orb Ascending, fires the horizon; while the clouds, That crowd away before the driving wind, More ardent as the disk emerges more, Resemble most some city in a blaze,

Seen through the leafless wood. His slanting ray Slides ineffectual down the snowy vale, And, tinged all with his own rosy hue, From every herb and every spiry blade Stretches a length of shadow o'er the field. *William Cowper*

An Evening Prayer

PROSPER, O God, the good thoughts, the good purposes, the good resolutions, which Thou Thyself hast inspired this day.

Thomas Wilson

FORGIVENESS

OF him that hopes to be forgiven it is indispensably required that he forgive. It is therefore superfluous to urge any other motive. On this great duty eternity is suspended: and to him that refuses to practise it, the throne of mercy is inaccessible, and the Saviour of the world has been born in vain.

Dr Johnson

The Glory of the Open Sky

IT is a strange thing how little in general people know about the sky. It is the part of creation in which Nature has done more for the sake of pleasing man, more for the sole and evident purpose of talking to him and teaching him, than in any other of her works, and it is just the part in which we least attend to her.

There are not many of her other works in which some more material or essential purpose than the mere pleasing of man is not answered by every part of their organisation; but every essential purpose of the sky might, so far as we know, be answered, if once in three days, or thereabouts, a great, ugly,

black raincloud were brought up over the blue, and everything well watered, and so all left blue again until next time, with perhaps a film of morning and evening mist for dew. And instead of this, there is not a moment of any day of our lives, when Nature is not producing scene after scene, picture after picture, glory after glory, and working still upon such exquisite and constant principles of the most perfect beauty, that it is quite certain it is all done for us, and intended for our perpetual pleasure.

And every man, wherever placed; however far from other sources of interest or of beauty, has this doing for him constantly.

John Ruskin

THE SPELL OF MUSIC

How sweet from war's discordant note to turn, From mundane carking cares to find relief, From life's incessant noise and toil adjourn And leave the world of strife and unbelief! There is a world of harmony and peace Where melody delights both heart and ear, And they who enter win a swift release

From vexing troubles and from secret fear. The great cathedral organ's noble voice Has power to hush the soul and calm the breast; The simplest tunes can make the heart rejoice; From pipes and strings sheer magic may one wrest. Let music so my earthly life inspire That I at last may hear the heavenly choir! *David Effgye*

Give and Take

MUCH of the happiness of this world comes from the graceful giving up of little rights—though surely we have no rights at all that inflict wrongs upon others. Those of us who think ourselves unselfish are often selfish without knowing; perhaps we have not time to think, or do not take the trouble to inquire, how our own interests clash with other people's. And how easily unselfishness itself may slip into selfishness! We see it, again and again, as in the refusal of invitations to do this or that or the other because it gives

a friend a little trouble. If our friends are worth having, a little trouble for our sakes is a great joy to them, and this fear of bothering them, leading us often to disappoint them, is a twisted way of looking at things which turns our desire to please our friends into a means of displeasing them. In the little things that matter so much all the way through life we must learn to give and take, to do for others what we would have them do for us, but to accept gladly from them the services they gladly render us.

Arthur Mee



THIS ENGLAND

A sturdy team ploughing Kentish acres at Biggin Hill

Junior Green Guards of the Oregon Forests

NEWS from Australia once again tells of the terror of the forest fire. In Victoria fires have raged across vast areas of forest and pasture land, destroying homes and crops, cattle and sheep, without let or hindrance. An estimate puts the loss of sheep in ten shires of Western Victoria at 435,000.

Shortage of man-power owing to the demands of war has caused the lessening of the usual precautionary measures; and when the fires came there were fewer men to fight them.

The North American continent also has its forest fire problem, and in the United States the great forests are being guarded in wartime by thousands of fire fighters called the Green Guards, many of whom are boys and girls.

In the States of Oregon and Washington there are more than 5000 trained forest-fire fighters. These include state and private fire-fighting organisations and the United States Forest Service personnel.

There are more than 35,000 loggers in over 2500 logging camps in the two states. These loggers form the reserves for the 5000 front-line fire-fighters, and are subject to call in case of an emergency in their districts. Loggers are tough, hardy, well-conditioned men who know how to fight a fire.

Some of these men are eager for a chance to fight more than fires. For instance, down in Tillamook County, Oregon, 1500 "timber beasts," as loggers like to call themselves, have formed a militant guerilla band. Known as the Tillamook Guerillas, these loggers and frontiersmen have trained not only to fight forest fires, but have trained

faithfully in guerrilla warfare.

Last year Oregon set up a youth division, enabling boys and girls between the ages of seven and 18 to become members of Green Guard squads. The squads were formed in every forest village, town, and city in Oregon. Each squad of five or more elected a captain, who was the contact for that group with state headquarters at Salem. These boys and girls were taught what to do in case of a fire; whom to notify; how to suppress the fire if it was small. They proudly wear an arm badge, with a double bar for captains and a lance-corporal chevron for second-year participation.

Results of this youth movement were fascinating. Members kept record of activities, which varied from reporting fires to displaying posters and cleaning out fire hazards around their farms and homes. In more than one instance prompt reporting of a fire by these eagle-eyed youngsters enabled fire crews to get to work without loss of time.

Out in the North-West, where logging and lumbering and timber-lands form a vital part of the region's economy, interest in preserving this natural storehouse of forest wealth is keen; and the people have done something constructive about the protection of the region from possible enemy attack, be that enemy Nature or Nazi.

GIBRALTAR CALLING

GIBRALTAR, the impregnable, has been sending out an S.O.S. The Rock is well-known as the only place in Europe where monkeys survive at large. The animals there are called Barbary apes, but are really macaques, a species that exists in North Africa, and therefore suggesting that they are the descendants of a group that settled on the Rock when Africa and Europe were joined in this area.

Now there is a tradition that so long as Barbary apes remain at Gibraltar the British will maintain their hold there, but not later. Hence in time of war, with enemy propaganda active among the less well-informed of the native population, it is undesirable that there should be any falling off in the numbers of the Gibraltar monkeys. A few years ago the animals had become so numerous that they fouled water supplies and their numbers had to be reduced.

Recently, however, Nature, or enemy agency, has taken a hand, for the total was found to have declined from 17 to five. It was suspected that Nazi agents had been employed to poison the apes, but the fact could not be proved, because such bodies as were found, remote from human habitations, were beyond successful examination. Be that as it may, recruits were asked for, and three new monkeys arrived, one by aeroplane, and two by ship, from Morocco and Algiers. One of the three has since died; so we may hear of the introduction of more apes to the Rock of Gibraltar.

Agriculture Makes Markets

Speaking of the social and industrial value of food production, Captain J. Templeton, late president of the National Farmers' Union, has recently reminded us that work on the land creates an invaluable market for the industries of the town.

He spoke of the important fact that every country of the world is faced with the significant problem as far as fresh foods are concerned. He went on:

"If we resolved to put man's first essential in its rightful place in Britain, in America, in the Empire, in China, in India, and elsewhere, we should, at the same time, give to urban industries an outlet for world trade that would keep millions of townspeople in permanent employment."

USEFUL DROSS

For the best part of a century slag-heaps have been an eyesore in many mining districts.

Now Hitler is the cause of the reduction in size of some of these mountains of waste. Bulldozers are at work on them to provide ballast for ships returning to America after discharging their war cargoes here.

For many years the C.N. has advocated emptying the slag-heaps into our disused quarries and gravel pits; and no doubt our American cousins will find further good use for our dross now turned ballast.

Jupiter at His Nearest to Earth

THE great planet Jupiter will be at his nearest to us for this year on Friday, February 11, when he will be 406 million miles away, writes the C.N. Astronomer. He will then be also at his brightest and will be readily recognised in the east and south-east sky in the evening.

Being the most brilliant object in that region of the heavens, there will be no mistaking Jupiter, but as the Moon will appear near him on the evenings of February 9 and 10, that will leave no doubt.

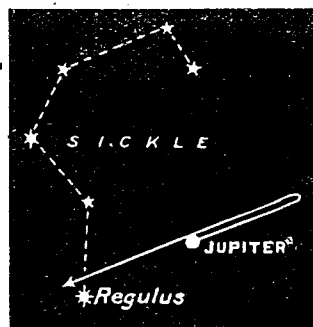
Jupiter now appears much brighter than Mars, although he is so much farther away. Seen through a telescope, Jupiter's golden disc appears more than 4½ times greater in diameter than the more orange-tinted disc of Mars. This little world, which is now 91 million miles away, and nearly as far as the Sun, is rapidly receding from us

Jupiter. This causes him to appear to travel backward for a time as the Earth overtakes him, the Earth's speed being nearly 18½ miles a second whereas that of Jupiter is only about 8 miles a second. His present "backward" motion is called *retrograding* by astronomers; it will continue until April 13, after which Jupiter will resume his *direct* course, from our point of view. This retrograding effect is shared by all the planets whose orbits are outside that of the Earth, that is, all but Mercury and Venus.

Regulus, the famous Royal Star of the ancients, and whose name means Little King, though appearing not nearly so bright as Jupiter, is actually a giant by comparison and much larger than our Sun. Regulus radiates about 120 times more light and heat from its intensely hot and blue-white surface, which has an average surface temperature of 17,500 degrees Centigrade as compared with our Sun's 6000 degrees. But this light comes from a distance 4,602,000 times farther away than our Sun, and takes 67½ years to reach us, whereas the reflected sunlight from Jupiter takes only about 38 minutes at the present time. This gives us some idea of the relative distances of these two luminaries.

As to relative sizes of the two planets, Regulus has a diameter calculated to be at least four times greater than our Sun, or about 3,500,000 miles, compared with the mean diameter of 86,720 miles of Jupiter. We realise from this what a grand spectacle Regulus would provide were it as near as Jupiter.

Regulus has a pair of much smaller "companion" suns, apparently worlds in the making, which are speeding with him through space; but they are at so vast a distance from him that any orbital motion has not so far been perceptible. These two companions appear to be about 5674 million miles apart. The larger one is quite a sun, radiating about half the light that our Sun does, but the other so much less that it is probably a world comparable to Jupiter in size but still in the fiery stage of its existence. G. F. M.



The curious path of Jupiter during the next six months

and so becoming much less conspicuous.

Now that Jupiter is so much better placed for observation, his position within that distinctive group of stars popularly known as the Sickle of Leo will be of interest, and more particularly the apparent movement of Jupiter in relation thereto. The star-map shows his present position to the right of the bright star Regulus and his curious peregrination during the next six months that Jupiter remains visible in the evening. It will be seen that (until April 13) Jupiter appears to travel away westward from Regulus. Then Jupiter reverses his apparent motion and travels towards Regulus, eventually appearing to approach very near to Regulus by the middle of July; but by then Jupiter will be in the twilight of the north-west sky.

This singular apparent motion of Jupiter is due to the perspective effect produced by the Earth's motion in overtaking

She is Judge over 70,000

AN African woman has recently been appointed a magistrate in a district of 70,000 people in Nigeria. She is a barrister and is now to be coroner, magistrate, and registrar at the Ebute Metta Court in Lagos. Her name is Stella Thomas.

Describing her appointment the Crown Colonist says, "her powers and functions are greater than those of a magistrate in the United Kingdom, for she tries all criminal and quasi-criminal cases, and also hears all civil disputes emanating from the areas named. The expert, firm, and just manner in which during the past few months she has dealt with hundreds of cases under the Defence Regulations Act has earned special praise.

"As a young girl Miss Thomas went to England to school, and stayed to study law. Returning to Nigeria in November 1935, she began practising, with marked success, as barrister and solicitor in the Supreme Court of Nigeria and Sierra Leone—the first woman barrister in Africa. Her simplicity of manner, ever accompanied by an almost schoolgirlish smile, hardly suggests the quick brain and shrewd understanding of human nature. Along with this, in private life, goes a deep compassion for the needy and suffering. Unimpeachable integrity, based on religious and ethical principles, is another outstanding feature of Stella Thomas's character. She is an earnest Christian."

BEDTIME CORNER

Pussy's Web

It wasn't really Nancy's fault, not altogether, at any rate. If anyone was to blame it was surely Pussy.

Nancy was playing with her one morning when Grannie called.

"Will you come and hold



my wool while I wind?" she asked.

Nancy went at once, and stood by Grannie while she slipped the wool round Nancy's fingers and began making it into a ball.

"Dear me," said Grannie presently, "I've forgotten to take my medicine! Wait here, Nancy. I'll be back directly."

But she wasn't; she was

gone quite a long time, and Nancy was growing tired of holding out her arms when she felt something rub against her legs.

She looked down. It was Pussy, and before Nancy could stop her she jumped up and pulled at the wool with her sharp claws.

"Go away! Go away!" cried Nancy, and in trying to push Pussy off she dropped one end of the wool altogether.

Pussy ran off—but she dragged the wool with her!

"Stop! Stop!" cried Nancy, running after her.

But the faster Nancy ran the faster went Pussy, round and round the room, over chairs and in and out the table-legs; till the whole room was strewn with wool from end to end. It was like a crazy spider's web.

Nancy looked at it and burst out laughing.

Just then the door opened, and Grannie came in.

When she heard Nancy laughing she got very indignant, so all that day Nancy was in disgrace. But if only she hadn't laughed so she might have made Grannie understand just how it had all happened.

The Nonsense of Old Nostradamus

FORTUNE-TELLING by gipsies and others was being discussed by the BBC Brains Trust the other day when somebody mentioned the name of Nostradamus as a man of notoriety in this connection. Who was he?

Nostradamus was the name assumed by Michael de Notredame, a man of Jewish descent. Born in Provence in 1503, he distinguished himself as a skilful and devoted doctor, but, when over forty, began to write in four-line verses, pretended predictions as to the fate and fortunes of nations and individuals in the centuries to come. Alchemy, astrology, and other quackeries were then fashionable, as for long afterwards; they dominated English thought until science swept them to the rubbish-heap of fantastic folly.

The predictions of Nostradamus are so vague, obscure, and elusive that they can be made to apply to any time, any country, any person, at the will and wish of the interpreter; and they can be used over and over again after they are supposed to have taken effect.

Although regarded by many scholar contemporaries as a dotting fool, Nostradamus achieved great fame and fortune. So did the fraudulent pretenders to the making of gold, and the discovery of the elixir that was to confer lasting health and eternal youth. None of the predictions of Nostradamus has failed to

find application to many events. Here is a typical example:

From great danger the captive is escaped.

A little, great fortune is changed. In the palace the people are caught.

By good augury the city is besieged.

In the time of Napoleon people saw in this verse his escape from Elba and the subsequent occupation of Paris by the Allies. But it was later made to serve for the career of Napoleon the Third and the fall of the French Empire. It may function again for the Fascists respecting the escape of Mussolini and the impending fate of Rome. And is not General Giraud a captive escaped, destined to re-enter Paris? Credulity of this kind still exists today.

Only a few months ago Dr Inge wrote: "Astrology, necromancy, ghosts, second sight, the whole apparatus of barbarous tomfoolery and make-believe flourish among us like a green bay tree." Seven years ago Lord Chief Justice Hewart characterised certain writings purporting to tell fortunes in general by the stars as "imbecile and repulsive twaddle."

FOR LEADERS OF YOUTH

IMPINGTON, three miles from Cambridge, has one of the group of village colleges founded in Cambridgeshire for the purpose of training children to live the lives of country folk, to grow up with a wider appreciation not only of the usefulness of country life but also of its essential dignity.

Impington Village College is dedicated to the service of youth in a very special way, and it is fitting that the Board of Education should have chosen it as the centre for a Course in Music, Drama, and Dance for leaders and organisers in the Youth Service.

This course (April 11 to 18) will be open to men and women in the Youth Service in England and Wales, whether paid or voluntary workers, and to those about to enter the Service; and its object will be to consider wide aspects of Music, Drama, and Dance, including community and part singing, orchestral work, mime, dialogue, rhythm, and form.

Students will live in the Village College, which was built in 1939 and has before been successfully used for residential Courses. All who wish to be candidates should write soon for a form of application to the Secretary, Board of Education, Belgrave Square, London, S.W.1.

Christopher Robin's Musician

The death of Harold Fraser-Simson, after a fall in his Scottish castle, takes from us a musician of great talents and unusual charm. He was the composer of the music for A. A. Milne's *When We Were Very Young*, and there can be few people who have not enjoyed the delightful song, Christopher Robin is Saying His Prayers. But he will also be remembered for his gay, melodious music to *The Maid of the Mountains*, that delightful romance which had one of the longest runs in the history of the English stage.

Fraser-Simson was a City man, and worked for a time in Mincing Lane. But very soon he achieved success with some popular songs which attracted the notice of well-known singers like John McCormack and Ada Crossley. Then he gave up commercial life, and took to music permanently, with the happiest results to himself and to us all.

Harold Fraser-Simson was as pleasant in character as his music, a man entirely without malice or jealousy, and so modest that his success gave a special pleasure to all who knew him. Not a great composer, he nevertheless gave us light music of enduring quality.

RAF Chef

Few Service units are as fortunate in their cooking arrangements as a certain R.A.F. station in Yorkshire.

Here the kitchens are under the control of an expert chef, Corporal R. G. White, who supervised the Lord Mayor of London's Coronation Banquet, and was lately called on by Mr Anthony Eden to prepare a dinner at the Foreign Office for an overseas deputation.

Amid Birch Woods Near Moscow

Most of us have heard of Pravda, the great Russian newspaper, but few of us know of the Pravda Home. Here is its story.

THE Pravda Home, surrounded by birch woods in the village of Kostino near Moscow, is one of many in Russia founded to look after children rescued from behind the enemy lines, from liberated areas, or who have lost their parents. It has been adopted by the Anglo-Soviet Youth Friendship Alliance, so that British youth will be able to express by gift and letter their sympathy with Russian youth which has suffered so much.

There are 350 children in the Pravda Home, from 8 to 16, proud and happy in this adoption by British youth, and overjoyed when they receive letters from this country. We learn something of their life and their home in this description by the superintendent:

Its grounds cover more than 100 hectares (247 acres) including the buildings, gardens, hot-houses, and fields. There are about a hundred dormitories and outbuildings, including a fine swimming pool—built by the children themselves—which is used as a skating rink in winter.

Our farm aims at supplying the Home with extra food above the State rations—mainly potatoes and other vegetables. We have 12 cows, one ox, 14 calves, 11 horses, 2 stallions, 90 pigs, and 9 beehives. The fields are for the most part worked by the children. They use an old motor tractor. The children receive training in agriculture and soon get into the way of the work after a few lessons.

There are sewing, knitting, bootmakers' and carpenters' apprentice shops where the children, beginning from the

Fourth Form, work after school. They carry out important orders and at the same time learn a trade. For their labour they receive wages to use as they please.

The Home has its own school, elementary and high school combined, with ten forms; it has a library, club, dispensary, bath-house, and dining-hall, too.

The youngsters are bearing temporary hardships in a fine spirit and are doing their best to help themselves. They have chopped 1000 cubic metres of firewood for the cold winter; they have learned how to repair their own boots; they are making cotton-padded lumber jackets from old things, turning coats inside out, and mending underwear and making hats. They clean the classrooms and dormitories, light the stoves, cut the lawns, care for the flower beds, get the storerooms ready for farm produce, and do many other things.

THAT is a little picture showing what the Pravda Home means to Russian children in dire need—to such as 12-year-old Misha Romantsev, who was in Moscow when a bomb killed his family and crippled him; to 8-year-old Faina Vasilenko, also an orphan, who was in Leningrad through the severe days of the blockade; to Tamara Kornienko, who remembers happy days in the woods of Smolensk, and remembers also when the Germans came.

Into the lives of such as these, the Russian citizens of tomorrow, the Pravda Home is bringing a new happiness and a new usefulness.

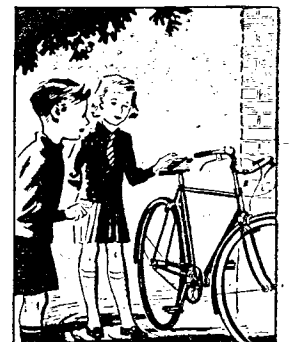
THANK YOU, BOYS & GIRLS!

Now that our story "The Spy-clists" has come to an end we at B.S.A. would like to say thank you—thank you to you all.

We have been quite overwhelmed by the interest you've taken in the B.S.A. Missing Word Competitions and by the large number of entries. We like to think that Michael and Monica are a boy and girl just after your own heart—observant, courageous, and unbeatable—on their B.S.A. cycles.

The winners have had their reward in hard cash, but we hope that you boys and girls who did not reach the goal will accept our friendship all the same.

We will see to it that no B.S.A. shall ever disappoint you—that we promise. At the moment, as you know, you have to be very patient to get your B.S.A. But that's a sacrifice that helps to win the war. And for after the war we are planning bright, new, light B.S.A. machines for every one of you. We've promised to do our best, but even you will be surprised to find just how good that "best" will be.



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Jacko and Chimp Afloat



FEBRUARY Fill-dyke had more than lived up to its name, and the gardens were under water. Jacko and Chimp waded out to the summer-house and had great fun pretending they were in the Ark. Suddenly, however, the flood began to carry them away. This was not such fun. "Help!" shouted Jacko, and "Help! Help!" echoed Chimp; and much to their relief Father Jacko came scurrying down to the water's edge to haul them in with a rope.

ONE BETTER

"You have nothing like that in America, have you?" was the remark made to an American soldier who was watching Vesuvius.

"No," he replied, "but we've got Niagara Falls, and they would put the whole thing out in five minutes."

WHAT AM I?

I'm often kept by king and queen,
Duke, baron, peasant, dean;
Lords and ladies prize me too,
I'm liked by them as well as you.
I'm high, I'm low, I'm short, I'm long,
I'm thin, I'm thick, I'm weak, I'm strong,
I'm plain, I'm fancy, handsome too,

Can You Read This?

CC

SAW

READ in the right way—these letters form a perfectly sensible sentence, nothing whatever to do with a see-saw, as would at first appear.

Answer next week

The BRAN TUB

NO CHARGE

"CAN you tell me the difference between electricity and lightning?" inquired the science master.

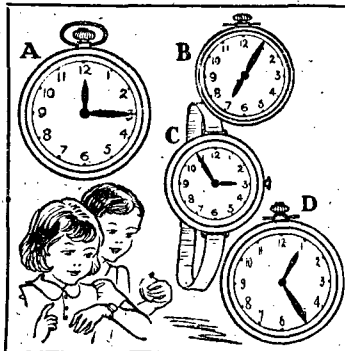
"Well, sir," was the cautious reply, "we don't have to pay for lightning."

Sharpened Up

THE Razor sighed, "I'm rather dull."
The Strop replied, "That's true; But if you'll let me be your friend I'll put an edge on you."

So now the Razor, thanks to Strop, Is keen as keen can be; And there is not in all the land A sharper boy than he!

What Is the Time?



SUSAN and Roger have some toy watches, and the minute and hour hands are cut out of one piece of metal, so that when they are wound each pair of hands must move together. If all the minute hands were put on the 12 what time would each watch say?

Answer next week

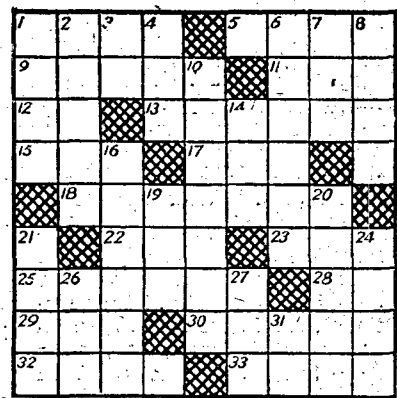
Cross Word Puzzle

Reading Across. 1 Firmly fixed. 5 A cudgel. 9 Walking. 11 Service. 12 Company (abbrev.). 13 A gentleman farmer. 15 A strip of cloth. 17 To catch suddenly. 18 The sea-cow. 22 To scold. 23 A knock. 25 A combat. 28 To proceed. 29 To decline. 30 To go in. 32 Wanders. 33 A short lance.

Reading Down. 1 A reality. 2 In a foaming state. 3 In such a manner. 4 A plaything for children. 6 Bulky rubbish. 7 Our great Western Ally (abbrev.). 8 To make crooked. 10 Capable of being held. 14 A popular cereal. 16 To trade by exchanging commodities. 19 Shelled fruit. 20 Keen. 21 Competent. 24 A haven. 26 A tune. 27 Termination. 31 Territorial Army (abbrev.).

Answer next week

The Children's Newspaper, February 5, 1944



Riddles About Clothes

WHY is a garment larger when taken out of the bag? Because you find it increases.

When is an altered garment like an ill-kept secret? When it is let out.

Why is a girl in a cotton dress like this riddle? Because she appears in print.

What is the best way to make a boy's coat last? Make the waistcoat and trousers first.

When can you say that a pocket is quite empty and yet has something in it? When it has a hole in it.

A Health Hint

A SHARK who had swum up a river, Exclaimed, "How I shake and I shiver! It's fresh water, I fear, That is making me queer—I am sure it is bad for the liver!"

NATURE NEWS

ALTHOUGH they do not usually nest till April, the jackdaws are already resorting to their building sites, and should be encouraged, for they are very useful birds, destroying many insects and other small vermin. They nest in holes of trees, cliffs, and houses. Gnats begin to make their appearance as well as another troublesome pest, the furniture beetle. Quantities of twin-bladder wrack, the commonest of all British seaweeds, are thrown up on the beaches.

WASTED ENERGY

"MY baby brother cried for an hour last night." "I suppose he wasn't allowed to have it?" "Have what?" "The hour."

Other Worlds

IN the evening Mars, Saturn and Uranus are in the south, and Jupiter is in the south-east. In the morning Venus and Mercury are in the south-east. The picture shows the Moon as it may be seen at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 2.



FAULTS

WE should blush to commit faults and not to repair them. Rousseau

...and the LIGHTS will come back

Have you ever thought that kiddies are growing up who have never seen a lighted street lamp? It is a strange world that children are living in to-day, and yet they are thriving.

'Milk of Magnesia' has done a good job in helping to keep the health standard of children high by correcting minor upsets of the digestion, so important in the 'growing-up' period.

By helping to safeguard our children, 'Milk of Magnesia' is assisting in building the sound health of the men and women of tomorrow.



'MILK OF MAGNESIA'

'Milk of Magnesia' is the trade mark of Phillips' preparation of magnesia

"THE BEST for the POOREST"
our motto in 1885 is still our aim after nearly sixty years. IN PRACTICAL WAYS we seek to ATTRACT OUR YOUNG FOLK, COMFORT THE AGED AND THE LONELY, RELIEVE THE SICK AND SUFFERING, HELP THE DESTITUTE AND DISTRESSED, AND GIVE FRESH HOPE TO THE TEMPTED AND FAILEN. **The East End Needs us NOW.** Please help with a gift to THE REV. PERCY INESON, Supt., **THE EAST END MISSION, Bromley Street, Commercial Road, Stepney, E.1.**



Apologies to customers unable to obtain BASSETT'S—due to Zoning

Little Joan Caught a Cold ... and then

Little Joan caught a cold at school and gave it to her sister Mary. She passed it on to Mummy and then Daddy got it too. And Mummy could have stopped that cold running through the family if she'd only known that most chemists now keep a wonderful old recipe all made up ready for use. It is known as the "Parmint" recipe, and one dose of this Parmint Syrup will nip practically any cold in the bud right away.

Besides, Parmint Syrup has the great advantage that kiddies like the taste. So they take it readily. And it's just as good for grown-ups.

Be wise. Get a bottle of Parmint Syrup from your chemist today and keep it handy. 1/5 the bottle including tax.

NOTE.—If you want to make it up yourself, ask for a 1 oz. bottle of the Parmint Concentrated Essences (price 3/11). It is even more economical that way.



Why I Want to Save the Children

A COMPETITION under this heading was announced in the CN for January 1 with the closing date as January 24, but in response to many requests The Save The Children Fund have agreed to accept entries up to February 12.

You are invited to write not more than 250 words on why YOU want to help the millions of child war victims, print your name, address, and age, and send your

entry with a gift of a shilling postal order to The Save The Children Fund, Room 100, 20 Gordon Square, WC1. There are four age groups—7-9, 10-12, 13-15, 16-18—and in each group three prizes are offered: 1st, a 15s Savings Certificate; 2nd, 10s Savings Stamps; 3rd, 5s Savings Stamp. Prizewinners will be announced in The Children's Newspaper for March 18.

The Children's Hour

Here are details of the BBC broadcasts for Wednesday, February 2, to Tuesday, February 8.

WEDNESDAY, 5.20 The Arkville Dragon, another Toytown story by S. G. Hulme-Beaman. 5.50 The Light of the World, by Laurens Sargent.

THURSDAY, 5.20 The Morgan who wrecked Coombes Reservoir, a Derbyshire story by Olive Dehn; followed by Songs by the Three Semis, and News from Manchester Zoo, by Gerald Iles.

FRIDAY, 5.20 Richard Williams as Richard Hannay in The Thirty-Nine Steps, by John Buchan, adapted by Winifred Carey, in six episodes—Part 1, The Man Who Died.

SATURDAY, 5.20 Variety, with the Dance Orchestra conducted by Billy Ternent.

SUNDAY, 5.20 Elizabeth Fry, a play by Morna Stuart with Mary O'Farrell in the title role, produced by Derek McCulloch.

MONDAY, 5.20 A Bush Dance, another of John Ein's Australian tales told by Mac. 5.40 Petrushka, the story of the famous ballet, with illustrations from the music of Stravinsky, told by Spike Hughes.

TUESDAY, 5.30 The Gingham Umbrella, a children's Radio Concert Party with Joseph Barker, Audrey Shepherd, Peter Lyons, Bradford Victoria Brass Quartet, Brian Brocklehurst, and Douglas Paling, and The Highlights Choir.